

Statement of Integrity

- 1. Common name of the evaluated property (e.g., The Smith Residence,")**
St. John's Presbyterian Church
- 2. Civic address / legal description of the evaluated property**
504 – 2 STREET SE, in the City of Medicine Hat in the Province of Alberta and legally described as:

PLAN 1491
BLOCK 5
LOT 37 TO 40 INCLUSIVE
EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS
- 3. Name and contact information for the registered owner of the evaluated property**
Congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church
504 – 2 Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0C6
- 4. Description of Historic Place (From the Statement of Significance)**
St. John's Presbyterian Church is a brick and sandstone structure executed in Gothic Revival style with a prominent square tower, and octagon pinnacle which frame the main façade with its pointed arch windows. It is located on a prominent intersection in the City's centre. The front façade is largely concealed by a later addition which wraps around the south, east and north sides of the Church. The front façade has two recently added brick murals by local artist James Marshall.
- 5. Applicable Significance Criteria (Adapted from the Statement of Significance)**



Theme / Activity /
Cultural Practice / Event

✓ Yes ☐ No

St. John's Presbyterian Church has retained its character-defining elements that made up its character and appearance of a church of this style in the early 1900's. **The heritage value of St. John's Presbyterian Church lies in its status as the oldest church building in Medicine Hat, and the home of the City's oldest religious congregation. Presbyterians held Medicine Hat's first religious service in 1883, and this congregation was formally organized in 1884 and began services on the present site.** The current church building was constructed in 1902 and remains to be highly recognizable for the religious activity it provided to the early members in the community.



Institution / Person

✓ Yes ☐ No

St. John's is valued as the congregation to which many of the community's founders and their families belonged. Prominent members of the early congregation included: James Hargrave, W.J. Cousins, and J.H. Yuill. Future generations of these families continue to belong to the church.



Design / Style / Construction

✓ Yes ☐ No

St. John's Presbyterian Church embodies the characteristics of a style, type and method of construction and has high artistic value. **Designed in Gothic Revival style, it features; load bearing brick structure on rock faced sandstone plinth creating a polychrome effect, prominent corner square tower with spire complete with finial, four (4) pinnacles at each corner of the tower, corbelled detailing at tower capital, larger free standing pinnacle on octagon column complete with spire, buttresses, lancet windows, stained glass windows, and small round brick vent details.** All of these details and architectural value are representative of the architect who was George M. Lang and the builder Charles Purmal.

The original architecturally designed structure represents artist value in and of itself however, has been further enhanced artistically with the brick mason artistry of local artist and St. John's Presbyterian Church's long-time member James Marshall. James Marshall's work is evident in abundance in Medicine Hat and locations elsewhere however, for this to be his life long church home, provides a notable achievement for his artistry as part of this historic resource.



Information Potential

✓ Yes ☐ No

Given the significance of the use of this historic resource as a church, the information potential of it to yield specific data in regards to significant people history and building construction is of utmost value to the community.



Landmark / Symbolic Value

✓ Yes ☐ No

St. John's Presbyterian Church was the first of its scale, architectural style and use in the downtown in 1902. Given it has maintained all those components, it has retained its ability to convey landmark and symbolic value.

6. Period of Significance

(The timeframe which best embodies the heritage values of the place. The period of significance may be later than the time of construction).

The heritage value of St. John's Presbyterian Church lies in its status as the oldest church building in Medicine Hat, and home of the City's oldest religious congregation. First Presbyterian religious services in the town on June 3, 1883 were held in the store tent of G.F. Tupper, it was a symbolic landmark in the community/city. These services are believed to be the first religious services in the town. This congregation was formally organized in 1884 and began services on the present site. The current church building was constructed in 1902.

7. Illustrated list of Character-Defining Elements

At the end of this Statement of Integrity document, please include an appendix of photographs of each character-defining element at time of evaluation. The following character-defining elements are extant and contribute to the overall integrity of the plan (From the Statement of Significance):

The character-defining elements include:

- Gothic Revival style detailing executed in load bearing brick and sandstone structure;
- Prominent corner square tower with central spire and four (4) corner pinnacles;
- Prominent, but smaller, octagon pinnacle;
- Pointed arched lancet windows with cathedral leaded glass;
- Engaged buttresses;
- Small round brick vent details;
- Two recent brick murals (James Marshall); and
- Sanctuary volume including the arches and ornamental details to the ceiling.

Does this resource retain the character-defining elements that enable it to communicate its significance?

✓ Yes ☐ No

8. Chronology of Alterations *(If known, describe, in as much detail as possible, the alterations which have been undertaken to the property being evaluated, including when they took place).*

A building addition of a hall in 1955 wraps around the east side of the original church structure while a second addition in the late 1960's can be found to the north of the original church building.

9. Aspects of Integrity

Does this resource retain the aspects of integrity that enable it to communicate its significance? (For each applicable aspect of integrity, explain why the resource does or does not retain integrity).

Location ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The church remains to be located at a prominent corner on 2 Street SE and 5 Avenue SE

in the downtown. At the time of construction, it stood prominently at this location in the centre of the city with residential homes surrounding it. Given its original architectural stature, it retains prominence as a part of the downtown.

Design ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The form, massing, arrangement of spaces, pattern of fenestration, textures of surface materials, type, amount and style of detailing have all been retained to ensure the integrity of the building. The church design reflects the function of the church and the value placed on the architectural permanence of buildings constructed for this use in the early 1900's.

Environment ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The church building retains its integrity as a significant architectural structure in the city's downtown core. Situated at a corner, and designed with a small urban open space at its corner entrance, provides a prominence of the architectural design and visual and physical access to the building.

Materials ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The original 1902 materials and pattern of sandstone and brick are present and have been maintained in their original state for all these years. Materials such as the sandstone foundation will be further conserved where some deterioration has taken place. Future additions included sustainable brick materials similar to the original structure.

Workmanship ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The original workmanship of the buildings sandstone and brick is highly evident through the sandstone detailing at the prominent corner square tower with central spire; the four (4) corner pinnacles; prominent, but smaller, octagon pinnacle; and pointed arched lancet windows with cathedral leaded glass. The workmanship and detailing of the engaged buttresses and small round brick vents further the attention to the architectural detail of the early 1900's. The workmanship is ornamental, sophisticated, based on traditional techniques and can be seen in all of the historic resource as a whole.

Feeling ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building was erected as the first large brick and sandstone church in the downtown. As a Gothic Revival architectural style, it strongly conveys the aesthetic and historical sense of a buildings function and design of the early 1900's. The integrity of the use and design of the church remain to provide a strong foundation within the downtown that continues to be felt.

Association ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The integrity of the function and use of the church, its architectural design and retention of these components are highly evident. The church started in a small wooden building, its use retained in this location for all these years by the original workmanship and further maintenance. The church use remains to be active as it provides services for the congregation along with further programs for the community. The building was constructed for a religious activity that has met the needs of the congregation and community for over 100 years.

10. Statement of Integrity

St. John's Presbyterian Church maintains all of the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance/heritage value as a religious building that made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of religious and community heritage (Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event), the connection that remains to the congregation families who sustained the use and structure integrity (Institution/Persons) and the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style and features of the building (Design/Style Construction). The historic resource has yielded and is likely to continue to yield information important to the municipality's history (Information Potential) and the prominence and continued use of the building (Landmark/Symbolic Value) support the historic resources integrity. The evaluated property is deemed by the municipality to have both significance and integrity and therefore satisfies the requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource. This Statement of Integrity is required as part of the mandatory documentation for listing the property on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.

Name and Position of Municipal Council Appointee / "Certification Officer"

Name

Ray Barnard

Position

- ☒ Chief Administrative Officer
- ☐ Planner
- ☐ Development Officer
- ☐ Other _____

11. Municipal contact information

City of Medicine Hat, City Hall
580 First Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8E6

c/o Jeanie Gartly, Superintendent, Policy & Heritage Planning
403-525-8820
jeagar@medicinehat.ca

Signature of Reviewer

Date

Statement of Integrity

APPENDIX

Photo Report of Character-Defining Elements

St. John's Presbyterian Church Photos

The South and West Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions:

- Gothic Revival style detailing executed in load bearing brick and sandstone structure
- Prominent corner square tower with central spire and four (4) corner pinnacles
- Prominent, but smaller, octagon pinnacle
- Pointed arched lancet windows with cathedral leaded glass
- Engaged buttresses
- Small round brick vent details
- Two recent brick murals (James Marshall)

Illustrative Details



Photograph Showing the Gothic Revival style detailing on the South Facade of St. John's Presbyterian Church



Photograph Showing the Gothic Revival style detailing on the West Façade of St. John's Presbyterian Church



Photograph showing the prominent corner square tower with central spire and four (4) corner pinnacles



Photograph showing the prominent, but smaller, octagon pinnacle



Photograph showing the pointed arched lancet windows with cathedral leaded glass



Photograph showing the engaged buttresses



Photograph showing the small round brick vent details



Photograph showing the two recent brick murals (James Marshall)

The East Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions:

- Gothic Revival style detailing executed in load bearing brick and sandstone structure
- Prominent, but smaller, octagon pinnacle
- Pointed arched lancet windows with cathedral leaded glass
- Engaged buttresses
- Small round brick vent details

Illustrative Details



Photograph Showing the Gothic Revival style detailing on the East Facade of St. John's Presbyterian Church

The North Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions:

- Gothic Revival style detailing executed in load bearing brick and sandstone structure
- Small round brick vent details

The Sanctuary Interior

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions:

- The sanctuary volume including arches and ornamental details to the ceiling

Illustrative Details



Photograph Showing the Sanctuary Volume including the arches and ornamental details to the ceiling